



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Scott L. Newsome, Representatives Karin Adams, Robert Bailey, Jeanne Baker, Joe Baril, Alicia T. Bauer, Rafael Burgos, Jr., Clarence Casper, Bobbi Jo Cini, Christine Conley, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Susan Dean-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Jim Evans, Thomas A. Frickman, Bob Garcia, Nancy Gilly, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Emily Maher, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Lisa McCabe, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe L. Merritt, Jim Nault, Kathy Neugent, Lian Obrey, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Carolann Quinn, Dutcha Sliker-Hersant, Joan Steinfeld, Irma J. Streeter, James L. Streeter, Archie Swindell, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Gary Welles, Ivy R. Williams, and Jonathan Wilson.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Casper, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson

Members Absent: Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Cini, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Marley, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams

He stated that 28 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Also present were Town Councilor Bonnie Nault, Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Mark Norris from the Public Works Department, Town Attorney Brian Fiango, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Adams. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 27 in favor, 1 abstention. Abstaining: Rep. Bauer.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. Baker, DeMatto, Gilly, McDermott, I. Streeter and J. Streeter notified the Town Clerk that they were unable to attend the meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of February 29, 2016 was approximately \$9.1 million. He reported that the General Contingency amount for FYE 2016 was appropriated at \$550,000 with a pending transfer of \$337,296 which would leave a balance of \$212,704. He stated that the Capital Reserve Fund balance as of February 29, 2016 is \$389,764, a decrease from last month's balance of \$988,886. This decrease is related to the authorization of payment of the arbitration award to Pettini Contracting Corporation in the amount of \$606,070, pending

RTM approval.

2. Monthly briefing

Mr. Oefinger highlighted items from the Town Managers News, including the One Book One Region Programs which began on February 16th and ends on April 12th. All programs are free and open to the public. He stated there is an invitation from the Subase to attend the 116th Submarine Birthday Ball on April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at Foxwoods Resort Casino. He made reference to the 2016 SCRRA Household Waste Collection schedule and a invitation from Groton Emergency Communications to attend their 35th Anniversary Celebration for servicing the community. A luncheon and open house will be held on April 13th at 12:00 p.m. at the Groton Emergency Center. He mentioned that there is a School Facilities Task Force Committee Meeting on March 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex to discuss the building of new schools. He continued to say that there is a budget hearing on March 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center and encouraged RTM members to attend Town Council Meetings concerning the budget. He acknowledged that budget books would be available on March 15th and that the budget meeting schedules would be forthcoming.

Rep. Loughlin asked about the Historic Documents Preservation Grant the Town was awarded.

Town Clerk Moukawsher responded that this is a grant that is applied for every year for the preservation of Vital Records and Land Records.

Rep. Wilson asked if Union Contract increases were budgeted.

Mr. Oefinger responded that it is difficult to determine Union Contract increases while contracts are still in negotiation. He added that it is one of the reasons for funding the General Contingency Account and why transers are made.

G. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town Manager made reference to the Office of Planning and Development Services Update dated January 2016 that was presented to all members. The update highlighted commission vacancies, permits issued and code enforcement violations.

H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

I. LIAISON REPORTS

Town & City/RTM Board of Education Liasion Committee

Rep. Watrous reported that the Town/City Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee met on March 2, 2016. She stated they discussed shared services. The TC and BOE are in the process of appointing members for an Ad Hoc Committee to look at resources in the Town and the BOE and that the BOE continues to look into marketing. She announced the BOE budget will have a zero percent increase and that their budget book will be smaller and more comprehensive. She mentioned that Dr. Graner will request \$142 million from the State for reimbursment for building new schools. The taxpayer portion would be \$55 million. She continued to say that two Town Councilors will be going to the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C. One of the concerns they plan to discuss is local impact aide. She stated that an item placed on next month's agenda will be the DARE program.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Quinn

Moderator Newsome appointed Rep. Conley as temporary chairperson due to the absence of Rep. Quinn.

Rep. Conley read the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2016. Minutes are attached to the

permanent record.

Rep. Conley made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.

Rep. Pasqualini made a motion to amend the minutes, seconded by Rep. Bauer and so voted unanimously as amended.

2016-0037

Extension of the Appropriation for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE THAMES STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton (the "Town") approved Ordinance No. 275 at referendum on May 2, 2011, which appropriated \$6,375,505 and authorized borrowing in the same amount for the Thames Street Rehabilitation project; and

WHEREAS, the Debt Policy and Management/Fiscal Practices of the Town provide that any appropriation for construction or other permanent improvement which has not been completely expended at the end of five years from the date thereof shall thereupon lapse; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has reported that certain additional expenditures remain to be made or financed for the project that cannot be expended or financed by the end of five years from the effective date of the last appropriating ordinance and has recommended that said appropriation be extended by reappropriating that portion of the \$6,375,505 which has not been expended or financed on the effective date of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified that whatever portion of said appropriation is extended may be financed by grants and Town general obligation bonds previously approved; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Town to complete the financing of the Thames Street Rehabilitation project; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that any portion of said \$6,375,505 appropriation which has not been expended or financed on the effective date of this resolution shall be extended and reappropriated, provided that the total amount expended or financed as of the effective date of this resolution, pursuant to said appropriation under Ordinance No. 275, plus the portion which is reappropriated, shall not exceed \$6,375,505.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0060

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Arbitration Award to Pettini Contracting Corp.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO PETTINI CONTRACTING CORPORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARBITRATION AWARD RELATING TO THE MYSTIC STREETSCAPES AND UTILITY RELOCATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Pettini Contracting Corporation ("PCC"), the contractor hired by the Town of Groton to perform the Mystic Streetscapes and Utility Relocation Project, commenced an arbitration proceeding with the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") against the Town claiming entitlement to additional monetary sums, and

WHEREAS, AAA rendered an Interim Award dated December 8, 2015, and Corrected Final Award dated February 2, 2016, and ultimately found that the Town shall pay to PCC the total sum of \$600,070.05, now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes, subject to approval of the RTM, payment to PCC in the amount of \$600,070.05 from the Capital Reserve fund, and be it further

RESOLVED, this matter shall be referred to the RTM under Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Nault, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Conley

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Neugent

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Wilson

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman McDermott

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Dean-Shinbrot

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

Rep. Massett stated that the meeting scheduled for March 9, 2016 did not have a quorum and that she would report back at the regular RTM meeting in April.

2016-0066 Recommended Changes to the Rules of the 30th RTM

K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Moderator Newsome stated that the schedule for the budget deliberations would be available next week. He discussed some rules of the RTM with an emphasis on points of order during budget meetings.

Rep. Nuegent asked if the schedule for the budget meetings included Committee Meetings.

Moderator Newsome responded that Chairpersons need to contact the Town Clerk for Committee Meetings.

Rep. Wilson asked if the budget schedules would reflect the accounts.

Moderator Newsome confirmed that they would.

In reference to a previous question from Rep. Wilson, Mr. Oefinger stated the current budget with 265 town employees had budgeted for 55 wage adjustments with contracts in place. He explained that is why additional funds are sometimes needed in the General Contingency Account.

Rep. Conley suggested the Town Manager give a report to the RTM to explain which contracts are in place, which contracts are not, and what kind of monetary effect it can have on the budget.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Obrey requested that the RTM be provided with a list of all major ongoing projects and an update on their progress quarterly if not monthly.

Mr. Oefinger noted that the Capital Improvements Projects are public record and that the RTM has a monthly report on Economic Development. He stated that he would discuss this matter with Moderator Newsome on the possibility of having the Director of Public Works give a quarterly

report.

M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Garcia and seconded by Rep. Pasqualini. Moderator Newsome adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II